of the export of cotton has been able to arrest the steeply rising trend in the prices of raw cotton.

(c) Government have permitted duty-free import of 5 lakh bales of cotton, estimated to cost about US $ 169 million at prevailing international prices by spinning mills. The countries from which, the cotton is intended to be imported are Eqypt Sudan; USA; CIS countries, Australia and some African countries.

(d) and (e) The Government's decision to allow duty-free import of cotton is expected to ease pressure on domestic availability of raw cotton and would be able to contain the upward rise in the cotton prices. The cotton prices are prevailing at 55% to 110 % above Minimum Support Price levels are therefore, quite remunerative for the cotton growers.

Request for import of cotton and dehoarding opsrations

2233. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has rsquested the Central Government to import cotton and launch dehoariding operations within the country to control the prices of cotton and yarn;

(b) if so, what are the reasons made out for this demand; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request has been made because of the shortage in the availability of raw cotton and consequent increase in the domestic prices of cotton and cotton yarn, leading to hardship to the handloom and powerloom weavers;

(c) The Government has permitted duty free import of 5 lakh bales of cotton by the spinning mills and have asked State Govsrnments to take dehoarding measures.

Revival package for sick NTC Mills

2234. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be plsased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal of revival package for the sick mills of National Textile Corporation and 70,000 workers are likely to be subjected to the voluntary retirement scheme;

(b) whether the Trade Unions have expressed their reservations about this proposal and demanded modernisation of the mills; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the demand of Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The Cotton Textie Research Associations have on the directions of the Ministry of Textiles prepared fresh modernisation Plans for the revival of National Textile Corporation which involve, inter-alia, the rationalisation of 70885 officers, staff and workers under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The Sub-Committee of the Special Committee on NTC, which includes, representatives of INTUC, NLO, HMS BMS, AITUC and CITU, have accepted the Plans of this Cotton Textile Research Associations with the proviso that "restructuring with modernisation has to be done at each unit level". The report of the Sub-Committee has been placed before the Special Committee on NTC.

Indifference to the promotion of Jute goods exports

2235. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are indifferent to promote jute goods exports despite the rising demand for such goods in the world market; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such indifference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Review of New Global agreement on Textiles

2236. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the new global agreement on textiles;

(b) whether this agreement is detrimental to the export of textile goods; and

(c) what are the likely effects of this agreement with regard to the textile trade during the next ten yers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The textile agreement included in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round envisages complete integration of the entire textile sector into the multilateral framework at the end of the ten year transition period. Thus this agreement provides for dismantling of the discriminatory quota regime practiced under the Multi-fibre Arrangement by some of the developed countries. The agreement provides for progressively increasing market access even during the transition period which is divided into 3 stages of 3 years, 4 years and 3 years. At the commencement of each stage a specified percentage of textile and clothing items covered by the agreement will stand integrated into the multilateral framework. Besides, in respect of restrained products, increased access is provided during the transition period by the application growth factors till such products get integrated. The effect of this agreement with regard to India's textile and clothing exports during the next 10 years is expected to the positive.

विदेशी कपड़ा और सिले हुए वस्त्रों के लिए बाजार सुविधाओं में वृद्धि करने के लिये अमेरिका का अनुरोध

2237. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :**
श्री ओ० राजगोपाल :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमेरिका ने भारत को विदेशी कपड़ा और सिले हुए वस्त्रों के लिए बाजार सुविधाओं में वृद्धि करने को कहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस चेतावनी के परिणामस्वरूप बाजार सुविधाओं में क्या प्रस्तावित परिवर्तन करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी. वेंकट स्वामी) : (क) और (ख) उरुग्वे दौर की वार्ताओं में बाजार प्रवेश के एक भाग के रूप में यू.एस.ए. और यूरोपीय समुदाय दोनों ही भारतीय बाजार में अपने वस्त्र और कलाड़िग उत्पादों के लिए बाजार प्रवेश की मांग इस आधार पर कर रहे हैं कि दौर में शामिल सभी भागीदारों से यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे अंतराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के उदारीकरण की प्रक्रिया में योगदान दें ।

भारत ने उरुग्वे दौर की प्रक्रिया के एक भाग के रूप में फाइबर यार्न और कुछ फैब्रिक मदों के संबंध में सीमा शुल्क में कटौती और अनिवार्यता का प्रस्ताव पेश किया है । बहुपक्षीय संरचना से वस्त्र क्षेत्र के एकीकरण होने पर 10 वर्ष की